

ORDER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
SOUTHERN REGION

SO 6120.1

January 22, 1992

SUBJ: ARTS IIA LOCAL PATCH PROCEDURES

1. PURPOSE. This order establishes procedures for facilities to implement local patches to the ARTS IIA operational software.
2. DISTRIBUTION. This order is distributed to branch level in the Air Traffic and Airway Facilities Divisions and all ARTS IIA facilities and ARTS IIA Air Traffic hubs.
3. DEFINITIONS.
 - a. Case File - As defined in Order 6120.2, Procedures for Field Development of Automation Projects, Appendix 1. Copies of all applicable correspondence with the Regional Office and a record of milestones attained shall be maintained with the case file.
 - b. Development and Off-Line Testing - This applies only to the originating facility during the conceptualization, coding, and initial testing stages of patch development.
 - c. Local Patch - A modification to the operational software to accomplish a function not currently available. It is intended for use at an individual facility, and not intended to be incorporated into the baselined (nationally-supported) operational software.
 - d. Off-Line Testing - Testing of a pre-existing patch to determine its useability/applicability at other than the originating facility.
 - e. On-Line (Live-Environment) Testing - Testing in an operational environment, using live traffic and on-line systems.
 - f. ORD - Operational Readiness Demonstration. Also used to indicate operational status of new/modified software and/or equipment.
 - g. Original Case File - The case file that first received approval for incorporation of a particular local patch. It will be maintained by the originating facility and will include the documentation of any approved modifications/enhancements. A copy will be submitted by each facility requesting this patch.

Distribution: A-X(AT)-3; FAT-1,2,8 (Supervisors)

Initiated By: ASO-510

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h. Originating Facility - The facility first granted approval for operational use of a particular local patch.

i. Reversion - The process of removing operational software (base-lined or modified) from service and replacing it with the previous operational version.

NOTE: Commencement and/or discontinuance of on-line testing, ORD, or reversion shall be documented on FAA Form 7230-4, Daily Record of Facility Operations.

4. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION. The office of primary interest for ARTS IIA case files and patches is ASO-513. All questions, correspondence, and documentation shall be addressed to this office.

5. PROCEDURES.

a. Regional Office.

(1) ASO-513 will maintain a copy of all case files, along with any enhancements or revisions, in testing or operational in Southern Region facilities.

(2) ASO-513 will track patch testing and installations, and will advise the appropriate headquarters office when a facility becomes operational with a patch.

b. Field Facility Development of New Functions.

(1) Prepare and submit an original case file in accordance with Order 6120.2.

(2) When national/regional review of the case file is completed, the package will be returned to the originating facility with approval/disapproval for off-line testing.

(3) The Air Traffic Manager shall submit a test report in accordance with Order 6120.2, Appendix 1, and one of the following, prior to the end of the off-line testing period:

(a) Request extension of off-line testing period.

(b) Request on-line testing.

(c) A statement that the facility does not intend to incorporate the subject patch.

(4) When a facility requests on-line testing and after approval is received, initiate actions to accomplish the following, as required:

(a) Training of controllers or technicians.

(b) Changes to local procedures, directives and agreements necessary to use the patch operationally.

(c) Brief involved personnel/facilities on the circumstances of the test, test procedures, expected outcomes, and implementation and/or reversion procedures.

(5) Commence on-line testing after above actions are completed.

(6) When the facility manager is satisfied with the test results, a final test report and request for operational use shall be submitted.

(7) When authorization is received, managers may declare the patch operational. (Document this declaration on the FAA Form 7230-4. Example - "ARTS IIA Local Patch PNSDS-AR2A-004 operational.")

c. Incorporating patches originated by other facilities.

(1) Acquire a copy of the complete original case file (including facility, regional, and headquarters endorsements) from the originating facility.

(2) Attach a Form 1800-2, NAS Change Proposal, for your facility (showing the original case file number, title and description) to the original case file, and submit this package with a letter requesting off-line testing.

(3) Beginning at this point in the process, the procedures are the same as those in paragraphs 5 b(2) through 5 b(7), above.


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